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By: **Delegates Eckardt and Schisler**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2003  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 18, 2003

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County - Board of Education - Election of Members**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that members of the Dorchester County Board of  
4 Education shall be elected; establishing a procedure for the election of members  
5 of the Dorchester County Board of Education; establishing a certain term of  
6 office for elected members; providing for the removal of members under certain  
7 circumstances; providing for certain student nonvoting members; providing a  
8 procedure for filling a vacancy on the County Board; providing for the election of  
9 the president and vice president of the County Board; providing for the  
10 compensation of the members of the County Board; providing for the  
11 termination of the terms of the appointed members of the County Board;  
12 requiring the County Board to meet at certain intervals; providing for the  
13 effective date of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the termination of  
14 certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the Dorchester County  
15 Board of Education.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article - Education  
18 Section 3-114(a)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
22 Article - Education  
23 Section 3-114(a)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

1 (As enacted by Chapter 289 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)

2 BY renumbering

3 Article - Education

4 Section 3-5A-01 through 3-5A-05, respectively, and the subtitle "Subtitle 5A.

5 Frederick County"

6 to be Section 3-5B-01 through 3-5B-05, respectively, and the subtitle "Subtitle

7 5B. Frederick County"

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Education

12 Section 3-5A-01 through 3-5A-05, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle

13 "Subtitle 5A. Dorchester County"

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18

**Article - Education**

19 3-114.

20 (a) In the following counties, the members of the county board shall be elected:

21 (1) Allegany;

22 (2) Calvert;

23 (3) Carroll;

24 (4) Charles;

25 (5) DORCHESTER;

26 (6) Frederick;

27 [(6)] (7) Garrett;

28 [(7)] (8) Howard;

29 [(8)] (9) Kent;

30 [(9)] (10) Montgomery;

31 [(10)] (11) St. Mary's;



1 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
2 read as follows:

3 **Article - Education**

4 **SUBTITLE 5A. DORCHESTER COUNTY.**

5 3-5A-01.

6 (A) THE DORCHESTER COUNTY BOARD CONSISTS OF:

7 (1) FIVE VOTING MEMBERS, ONE MEMBER ELECTED FROM EACH OF THE  
8 FIVE COUNCILMANIC DISTRICTS; AND

9 (2) ONE NONVOTING STUDENT MEMBER FROM EACH PUBLIC HIGH  
10 SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY.

11 (B) THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL BE ELECTED:

12 (1) AT THE GENERAL ELECTION; AND

13 (2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 8 OF THE ELECTION LAW  
14 ARTICLE.

15 (C) (1) A MEMBER ELECTED FROM A COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT SHALL BE A  
16 RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT.

17 (2) A MEMBER ELECTED FROM A COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT WHO NO  
18 LONGER RESIDES IN THE DISTRICT MAY NOT CONTINUE AS A MEMBER OF THE  
19 COUNTY BOARD.

20 (D) (1) EACH VOTING MEMBER SERVES FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS BEGINNING  
21 ON JANUARY 1 AFTER THE MEMBER'S ELECTION AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS  
22 ELECTED AND QUALIFIES.

23 (2) A VOTING MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE FOR MORE THAN THREE  
24 CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

25 (E) THE TERMS OF THE VOTING MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS FOLLOWS:

26 (1) ONE MEMBER ELECTED FROM EACH OF THE COUNCILMANIC  
27 DISTRICTS 1, 3, AND 5 AT THE 2004 GENERAL ELECTION, AND EVERY 4 YEARS  
28 THEREAFTER; AND

29 (2) ONE MEMBER ELECTED FROM EACH OF THE COUNCILMANIC  
30 DISTRICTS 2 AND 4 AT THE 2006 GENERAL ELECTION, AND EVERY 4 YEARS  
31 THEREAFTER.

1 (F) (1) THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL APPOINT A NEW MEMBER TO FILL ANY  
2 VACANCY ON THE COUNTY BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT TERM AND UNTIL  
3 A SUCCESSOR IS ELECTED AND QUALIFIES.

4 (2) A RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT IN WHICH A VACANCY EXISTS MAY  
5 APPLY FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL TO FILL THE VACANCY.

6 (3) THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL ADOPT RULES GOVERNING THE  
7 PROCEDURE THROUGH WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO FILL A VACANCY ON  
8 THE COUNTY BOARD.

9 (G) (1) EACH STUDENT MEMBER SHALL:

10 (I) BE A TWELFTH GRADE STUDENT IN THE DORCHESTER COUNTY  
11 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ELECTED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE PUBLIC  
12 SCHOOL THAT THE STUDENT ATTENDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES  
13 ESTABLISHED BY THE SCHOOL SYSTEM;

14 (II) SERVE FOR 1 YEAR BEGINNING ON JULY 1 AFTER THE  
15 ELECTION OF THE MEMBER;

16 (III) BE A NONVOTING MEMBER; AND

17 (IV) ADVISE THE BOARD ON THE INTERESTS OF STUDENTS.

18 (2) UNLESS INVITED TO ATTEND BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A  
19 MAJORITY OF THE COUNTY BOARD, THE STUDENT MEMBERS MAY NOT ATTEND AN  
20 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

21 3-5A-02.

22 (A) THE STATE BOARD MAY REMOVE A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY BOARD FOR  
23 ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

24 (1) IMMORALITY;

25 (2) MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE;

26 (3) INCOMPETENCY;

27 (4) WILLFUL NEGLECT OF DUTY; OR

28 (5) FAILURE TO ATTEND, WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE:

29 (I) AT LEAST 75% OF THE SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE BOARD  
30 IN ANY 1 CALENDAR YEAR; OR

31 (II) THREE CONSECUTIVE SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.

1 (B) BEFORE REMOVING A MEMBER, THE STATE BOARD SHALL SEND THE  
2 MEMBER A COPY OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THE MEMBER AND GIVE THE MEMBER  
3 AN OPPORTUNITY WITHIN 10 DAYS TO REQUEST A HEARING.

4 (C) IF THE MEMBER REQUESTS A HEARING WITHIN THE 10-DAY PERIOD:

5 (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMPTLY HOLD A HEARING, BUT A  
6 HEARING MAY NOT BE SET WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE STATE BOARD SENDS THE  
7 MEMBER A NOTICE OF THE HEARING; AND

8 (2) THE MEMBER SHALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD  
9 PUBLICLY BEFORE THE STATE BOARD IN THE MEMBER'S OWN DEFENSE, IN PERSON,  
10 OR BY COUNSEL.

11 (D) A MEMBER REMOVED UNDER THIS SECTION HAS THE RIGHT TO A DE  
12 NOVO REVIEW OF THE REMOVAL BY THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY.  
13 3-5A-03.

14 AT ITS FIRST MEETING AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THE  
15 COUNTY BOARD SHALL ELECT A PRESIDENT AND A VICE PRESIDENT FROM AMONG  
16 ITS MEMBERS.

17 3-5A-04.

18 (A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE VOTING MEMBERS  
19 SHALL RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS SET BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

20 (B) (1) THE SALARY OF EACH VOTING MEMBER OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
21 SHALL BE AT LEAST \$3,200.

22 (2) THE SALARY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL BE  
23 AT LEAST \$3,600.

24 3-5A-05.

25 (A) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EACH MONTH.

26 (B) EXCEPT FOR THOSE ACTIONS AUTHORIZED BY SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS  
27 SECTION, ALL ACTIONS OF THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL BE TAKEN AT A PUBLIC  
28 MEETING AND A RECORD OF THE MEETING AND ALL ACTIONS SHALL BE MADE  
29 PUBLIC.

30 (C) THE COUNTY BOARD MAY TAKE ACTIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN  
31 ACCORDANCE WITH § 10-508 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

32 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the  
33 appointed members of the Dorchester County Board expire as follows:

1 (a) (1) The term of the appointed member from councilmanic district 3,  
2 scheduled to expire on June 30, 2003, shall terminate at the end of December 31,  
3 2004;

4 (2) The term of the appointed member from councilmanic district 1,  
5 scheduled to expire on June 30, 2005, shall terminate at the end of December 31,  
6 2004; and

7 (3) The term of the appointed member from councilmanic district 5,  
8 scheduled to expire on June 30, 2004, shall terminate at the end of December 31,  
9 2004.

10 (b) (1) The term of the appointed member from councilmanic district 4,  
11 scheduled to expire on June 30, 2005, shall terminate at the end of December 31,  
12 2006;

13 (2) The term of the appointed member from councilmanic district 2,  
14 scheduled to expire on June 30, 2006, shall terminate at the end of December 31,  
15 2006; and

16 (3) The term of the appointed member from councilmanic district 1,  
17 scheduled to expire on June 30, 2007, shall terminate at the end of December 31,  
18 2006.

19 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall  
20 take effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 20 of  
21 Chapter 289 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002. If that termination provision  
22 takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.  
23 This Act may not be interpreted to have any effect on that termination provision.

24 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions  
25 of Section 6 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2003.